ing unit for tamarind, sugar mills, coir and jute and spinning mills in the State. The Department of Small Scale Industry and Agro and Rural Industry under the Ministry of Industry promotes schemes for development of agro-based units through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission. It is for the State Government to draw up proposals for establishment of units during the Eighth Plan period. However, Ministry of Food Processing Industries has provided an amount of Rs. 73.10 lakhs for development of fruit and vegetable processing and fish processing/ marketing. NCDC has provided assistance for a cooperative sugar unit, two composite coir units, one rubberised coir unit and 13 jute baling units, KVIC has provided Rs. 81.63 lakhs as grant and Rs. 269.14 lakhs as loan for agro-based units.

Floods in Himachal Pradesh

4908. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of loss of life, crop and livestock suffered in Himachal Pradesh due to recent heavy floods, rains and snowfall;

(b) whether the State Government has asked for the Central aid to help in restroration of those affected and if so the quantum of aid given to the State; and

(c) whether Government have also ensured that there is no discrimination in the distribution of the aid provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) According to information received from the Government of Himachal Pradesh, 179 human lives and 1022 cattle heads were lost and crops in an area of 4.76 lakh hectares were damaged due to heavy rains and floods during the South-West monsoon, 1994.

(b) and (c) The State Government had submitted a Memorandum seeking Central assistance of Rs. 399.00 crores for relief and rehabilitation measures in the flood affected areas. Under the existing scheme of financing relief expenditure, the State Governments are required to undertake relief and rehabilitation measures using the corpus of the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), allocated annually. No additional funds are provided by Government of India for this purpose to any State Government. In order to enable the Government of Himachal Pradesh to undertake relief measures in the flood affected areas, the third and fourth instalments of Central Share of CRF amounting to Rs. 6.75 crores were released in advance

आलू की पैदावार

4909. **प्रो० राम बख्श सिंह वर्मा :** क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) देश में आलू की कुल कितनी पैदावार होती है ;

(ख) क्या यह मात्रा हमारी घरेलू खपत के लिये पर्याप्त है ;

(ग) क्या आलू की नई किस्मों का खेती के लिये परीक्षण किया जा रहा है; और

(घ) आलू की पैदावार को बढ़ाने के लिये क्या-क्या कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अरविन्द नेताम) : (क) देश में 1993–94 के दौरान आलू का उत्पादन 180.35 लाख टन था ।

(ख) जी, नहीं, क्योंकि जनसंख्या में वृद्धि के साथ-साथ मांग भी बढ़ती जाती है ।

(ग) जी, हां ।

(घ) केन्द्रीय आलू अनुसंधान संस्थान, शिमला द्वारा विकसित की गई कई उन्नत किस्मों का सिफारिश किये गये प्रणाली के पैकेज सहित विभिन्न उत्पादन अंचलों में संवर्धन किया जा रहा है । भारत सरकार आठवीं योजना के दौरान 2.5 करोड़ रुपये के परिव्यय से कन्द मूल- फलों के विकास संबंधी केन्द्रीय क्षेत्र की योजना के अन्तर्गत, प्रदर्शनों के आयोजन के माध्यम से, व्यवसायिक स्तर पर अच्छे आलू के बीज के उत्पादन और कृषकों द्वारा इसे अपनाये जाने को बढ़ावा दे रही है ।